What is claimed is:

1(currently amended). A container, comprising:

a container body defining at least side walls and a bottom, and having frame elements at least partly forming a door opening with a hinge side, a latch side and a bottom side;

a container closure including a door panel sized to fit the door opening, the door panel being hingedly attached relative to the frame elements at the hinge side and being movable to occupy the door opening;

a compressible sealing gasket carried by at least one of the door panel and the frame elements, the gasket being compressed between the door panel and the frame elements **up to the hinge side,** under an operative sealing pressure when the container closure is sealed with the door panel occupying a closing position in the door opening**, wherein compression of the gasket resists hinging movement of the door panel into the closing position**;

at least one closing mechanism for holding together the door panel and the frame elements in conjunction with **said** compression of the gasket, the closing mechanism being disposed along at least part of an edge of the door opening;

wherein the closing mechanism has ~~at least one of~~ an intermediate state wherein the **gasket is engaged by the door panel at a sealing pressure less than the operative sealing pressure while the** door panel is ~~held~~ ajar~~, and an intermediate span of adjustment that is variable along the edge in a direction of the sealing gasket~~**;**

a door clamping mechanism operable to advance the door panel by further hinging movement from the intermediate state to the closing position, wherein the door clamping mechanism comprises a rotatable locking bar having at least one eccentric cam, and a manual lever handle extending radially from the locking bar, the cam being received in a cam pocket in an associated one of the frame elements when the door panel is in the intermediate state, such that the door clamping mechanism is in range to be closed using the lever handle; and,

a spring catch configured to hold the door panel in the intermediate position when the door panel is forced to compress the gasket.

Claims 2 and 3 are canceled.

4(currently amended). The container of claim **1** ~~3~~, wherein the catch is spring biased to engage and is positioned to hold the door panel in the intermediate state after the door panel is momentarily moved toward the closing position beyond the intermediate state, whereby slamming the door results in engagement of the catch.

Claims 5 – 8 are canceled.

9(currently amended). The container of claim **1** ~~7~~, wherein the rotatable locking bar is disposed on an edge of the door panel parallel to and opposite from the hinge axis.

10(original). The container of claim 9, wherein the hinge axis is oriented vertically at one lateral side of the door panel and further comprising a plurality of said eccentric cams, the cams being spaced along the edge of the door parallel to and opposite from the hinge axis.

11(original). The container of claim 10, further comprising at least one clamping structure along a bottom edge of the door panel, said clamping structure along the bottom edge being adjustable to obtain said intermediate span of adjustment that is variable, along the bottom edge, in a direction of the sealing gasket.

12(original). The container of claim 1, further comprising at least one clamping structure along a bottom edge of the door panel, said clamping structure along the bottom edge being adjustable to obtain said intermediate

span of adjustment that is variable, along the bottom edge, in a direction of the sealing gasket.

13(currently amended). **A container, comprising:** ~~The container of claim 12,~~

a container body defining at least side walls and a bottom, and having frame elements at least partly forming a door opening with a hinge side, a latch side and a bottom side;

a container closure including a door panel sized to fit the door opening, the door panel being hingedly attached relative to the frame elements at the hinge side and being movable to occupy the door opening;

a compressible sealing gasket carried by at least one of the door panel and the frame elements, the gasket being compressed between the door panel and the frame elements under an operative sealing pressure when the container closure is sealed with the door panel occupying a closing position in the door opening;

at least one closing mechanism for holding together the door panel and the frame elements in conjunction with compression of the gasket, the closing mechanism being disposed along at least part of an edge of the door opening;

wherein the closing mechanism has at least one of an intermediate state wherein the door panel is held ajar, and an intermediate span of adjustment that is variable along the edge in a direction of the sealing gasket;

at least one clamping structure along a bottom edge of the door panel, said clamping structure along the bottom edge being adjustable to obtain said intermediate span of adjustment that is variable, along the bottom edge, in a direction of the sealing gasket; and,

wherein the clamping structure along the bottom edge comprises at least two clamping tabs affixed to the bottom edge and at least two corresponding clamping fingers mounted on a sill of the door opening, the clamping fingers being movably mounted to apply pressure against the clamping tabs.

14(original). The container of claim 13, wherein the clamping fingers are mounted on a lock shaft that is rotatable to wrap the clamping figures over the clamping tabs.

15(original). The container of claim 14, wherein the lock shaft is coupled to the container by force exertion means at least at one end of the lock shaft, whereby application of the force exertion means applies local force at a level that varies linearly along the lock shaft.

16(original). The container of claim 15, further comprising adjusting elements for varying the local force from the level that varies linearly along the shaft.

17(original). The container of claim 16, wherein the adjusting elements for varying the local force comprises a mechanism for individually varying a position of the clamping tabs.

18(original). The container of claim 17, wherein at least one of said clamping tabs comprises a pivotally mounted clamp plate and the adjusting elements comprise threadable spacers for varying said position of the clamping tabs.